| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2286  Responded to: 04 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The number of incidents of wilful fire raising by local authority ward for A) East Ayrshire B) North Ayrshire and C) South Ayrshire in the calendar years i) 2022 ii) 2023 iii) 2024 and iv) 2025 to date

## The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

## 2. The number of arrests made in relation to wilful fire raising in A) East Ayrshire B) North Ayrshire and C) South Ayrshire in the calendar years i) 2022 ii) 2023 iii) 2024 and iv) 2025 to date

## The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

## 3. The number of people charged in relation wilful fire raising in A) East Ayrshire B) North Ayrshire and C) South Ayrshire in the calendar years i) 2022 ii) 2023 iii) 2024 and iv) 2025 to date.

## As with Q1, above, the information sought here is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

## 4. The number of children or young people reported to the Children's Reporter in relation to wilful fire raising in A) East Ayrshire B) North Ayrshire and C) South Ayrshire in the calendar years i) 2022 ii) 2023 iii) 2024 and iv) 2025 to date

## 5. In relation to incidents of wilful fire raising in A) East Ayrshire B) North Ayrshire and C) South Ayrshire, a breakdown of the ages of the people i) arrested for 2022 to date ii) charged for 2022 to date and iii) been reported to the Children's Reporter for 2022 to date

In relation to both Questions 4 and 5, unfortunately I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we would need to manually review all Crime Reports to evaluate each for the information requested.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible.   
If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.